

CLAIMS:

5 What is claimed is:

- 10 1. A method of exporting file systems comprising the steps of:
consulting a file associated with a mount point to retrieve needed information to export the file systems, the mount point being the point at which the file systems are mounted on a computer system; and
15 exporting the file systems.
- 20 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the needed information is names of devices within which the file systems are located.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the file systems are exported without first being mounted.
- 25 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the file is an extended attribute file.
5. The method of Claim 4 wherein each mount point has an extended attribute file.
- 30 6. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for exporting file systems comprising:

code means for consulting a file associated with a mount point to retrieve needed information to export the file systems, the mount point being the point at which the file systems are mounted on a computer system; and

code means for exporting the file systems.

10 7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the needed information is names of devices within which the file systems are located.

15 8. The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein the file systems are exported without first being mounted.

9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the file is an extended attribute file.

20 10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein each mount point has an extended attribute file.

11. An apparatus for exporting file systems comprising:

25 means for consulting a file associated with a mount point to retrieve needed information to export the file systems, the mount point being the point at which the file systems are mounted on a computer system; and

30 means for exporting the file systems.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the needed information is names of devices within which the file systems are located.
- 5 13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the file systems are exported without first being mounted.
14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the file is an extended attribute file.
- 10 15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein each mount point has an extended attribute file.
- 15 16. A computer system for exporting file systems comprising:
- at least one storage device for storing code data; and
- at least one processor for processing the code data to
- 20 consult a file associated with a mount point to retrieve needed information to export the file systems, the mount point being the point at which the file systems are mounted on a computer system, and to export the file systems.
- 25 17. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein the needed information is names of devices within which the file systems are located.
- 30 18. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein the file systems are exported without first being mounted.

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19. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein the file is an extended attribute file.

5 20. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein each mount point has an extended attribute file.